

The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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APRIL, 1954



COOPERATIVE CHRISTIANITY IN GEORGIA

By Richard Drake



Richard Drake and Rev. Driscoll

Denominationalism has been called the scourge of Protestantism. It reached its peak of divisiveness about fifty years ago, but a new idea began to take shape, when in 1908, the Federal Council of Churches was formed - the idea of cooperative Christianity.

Since that time the Federal Council has played a leading part in the practical application of Christianity to American life. Reorganized as the National Council of Churches in America in the late 1940's, its work has become less dramatic, but no less important.

The idea of cooperative Christianity spread upward to mature at Amsterdam, Holland, in 1948 into the World Council of Churches, a body made up of all major Christian communions with the exception of the Roman Catholics. The second meeting of the World Council is to be held this summer at Evanston, Illinois, where Christians the world over will consider the crucial message for our age of despair, "Christ, the Hope of the World."

This cooperative idea spread downward to state and local councils of Churches. In Georgia the Atlanta Council has had a fruitful fifteen year history. In other cities ministerial councils or United Church Women organizations served to break down the barriers of denominationalism, and make Georgia Christians ready to accept the idea of a state council of Churches.

With the aid of the National Council, leader of six denominations and the United Church Women of Georgia met in May of 1951 and drew up a preliminary working constitution. The Georgia Council of Churches was formally organized on November 25, when over 100 delegates from more than a dozen denominations were on hand to launch this 40th state council of Churches founded in the United States.

Eight denominations actually joined the Council at its inception, and one has joined since. The Council has been inter-racial from the first.

The Georgia Conference of Congregational Christian Churches, following in the tradition of our church which habitually has given wholehearted support to ventures in cooperative Christianity, was one of the original supporting communions of the Council. The office of Recording Secretary has to this date been held by members of our Conference. Our Superintendent serves on the Executive Committee.

The Rev. Edward A. Driscoll, a Congregational Christian minister holding his standing in our Conference, was engaged full time by the Council on August 1, 1953. In the few months he has been with the Council, he has made its work known and widened its activities, continuing the public information program and weekly television program at 9:15 Tuesday mornings over W.A.G.A.-TV.

At the first Annual Meeting of the Council held at St. Mark Methodist Church in Atlanta last December 1st, Dow Kirkpatrick, pastor of the First Methodist Church in Athens, was elected as the Council's second President. Dr. Kirkpatrick's election seemed to symbolize the growing activities of the Council, for he had served as the Chairman of the Council's committee on "Areas of Work." During Dr. Kirkpatrick's Presidency the Council is becoming increasingly vocal in Georgia's issues on which Protestants can speak with a united voice.

And there are many problems which the denominations can attack better together than separately. For example, there are in Georgia alone over 300,000 unchurched children. At Milledgeville our Hospital for the Insane, the largest in the nation, is without the services of a Chaplain.

It has been the Council's aim to facilitate the cooperative efforts of Protestantism in order that those needs beyond the ability of single denominations can be met. There has been no attempt to establish a super-Church. The staff has been and will be kept at a minimum. Most of the activities of the Council will be carried on voluntarily by members of the various denominations, for the Council has been constituted as an organ of its member denominations. It aims to become the means through which the various communions can cooperate, leaving to each denomination its full independence of action and belief.

To underwrite the Council budget it is hoped that Congregational Christians can give \$250. This is not a large sum considering the total Council budget.

In 1952 the Georgia Conference voted to support the Council budget in 1953 by \$100. Only one church of the Conference fulfilled its obligation -- Central Church of Atlanta sent \$25. The Southeast Convention paid the other \$75 from its budget funds.

(Please turn to page 4)

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION ANNUAL MEETING

As the various committees meet on April 14 in Lanett to finalize plans for the Annual Southeast Convention Meeting, to be held May 15 and 16 in the Lanett Church, Lanett, Ala., the program this year looks unusually good.

The theme this year will be "Our Christian World Mission" and Samuel Wolcott's great hymn "Christ for the World We Sing" will be the Convention hymn.

Nationally known speakers who have accepted are as follows: **Dr. Ruth Isabel Seabury**, Educational Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; **Dr. Warren H. Denison**, stewardship expert; **Miss Margaret Hargrove**, National Secretary of the Women's Fellowship; **Walter Graham**, Executive Secretary of the National Laymen's Fellowship; and the **Rev. J. Kenneth Kohler**, Executive Secretary of the Churchmen's Brotherhood of Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Miss Seabury, Dr. Denison, Miss Hargrove and Walter Graham will address the Convention. In addition our famous speakers will be resource leaders of the two-hour concurrent sessions for ministers, laymen, women and young people.

Miss Seabury and Dr. Denison will meet with the ministers; Miss Hargrove will speak to the women at their luncheon and will be with them for their sessions. Walter Graham and Rev. Kohler will meet with the laymen. The young people will be convened by their President, Millard Fuller, and the Rev. John E. Pickens will serve as resource leader.

The Convention Program Committee is to be congratulated on the excellent program. Members are the Rev. Arnold Slater, the Rev. Joe A. French, the Rev. D. W. Shepherd, the Rev. Carolyn Welch and Superintendent Butterfield.

A slate of officers is being prepared by the Nominating Committee of the Southeast Convention, and will be presented to the delegates. Dr. Thomas Anderson is chairman with Odell Yancey, the Rev. J. W. Davenport, Mrs. Jettie Logan and a new treasurer, one member-at-large to serve on the Board of Directors, and the Moderator Elect. The fellowship groups of laymen, women and young people will also be electing presidents or chairmen in their respective meetings, and each fellowship officer will also serve as a member of the Convention Board of Directors.

The most important matter which will be coming up for discussion and action will be the consideration of autonomy and self-support for the Southeast Convention. Details of this plan are given on the Superintendent's Page (page 5) of this issue.

Detailed programs and information will be going out to ministers and church clerks by April 16, and reservations of delegates and visitors should be made promptly through the Convention office so the host church can make adequate plans to take care of the entertainment and hospitality.

CAMP SITE UNDER CONSIDERATION

By Jettie Logan

For several months the Camp Site Committee of the Southeast Convention has been investigating the possibility of obtaining the lease of property on the shores of Lake Martin (near Tallassee) to be used as a Conference Center and camp site.

On March 3 this committee met near Tallassee for lunch -- an important meeting to those who were there. It has long been the dream of many people of the Southeast Convention to have a camp site where the young people especially and all churches, committees, and fellowship groups could meet to enjoy the beauties of nature and feel closer to God. This dream seemed almost a reality when the Alabama Power Company agreed to lease some 30 to 50 acres at \$1 per acre per year for this purpose.

After lunch the committee went to Lake Martin to look over the site -- a beautiful peninsula extending into the lake, and thus secluded from surrounding property. The lake is noted for its beauty and is a wonderful place for fishing, boating, swimming (there are two sandy beaches), or just a quiet place where one may sit and enjoy the peace and beauty of nature. It is about 15 miles north of Tallassee, and almost a central location for the Southeast Convention. An Alabama Power line is within reach and a good gravel road which connects with the paved highway extends the length of the property.

At the tip of the peninsula there is a beautiful, flat large rock -- our Superintendent promptly named it "Plymouth Rock" and suggested that the camp be called "The Pilgrim Camp".

The committee has unanimously recommended to the Board of Directors the lease of this property, and it will be considered at their next meeting.

Anyone who wishes to know more about the camp site may write to any committee member. Let's all get behind this wonderful project and make our dreams come true. It will be a great asset to us now, but we are looking ahead many,



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STAFF

Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Supt.Editor
Rev. C. Carl Dollar.....Director, Extension Service
Mrs. Ed. A. AlbrightRegistrar

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1954 Schools for Pastors

Two summer schools for pastors will be held this summer; the Eastern School will hold sessions at Deering, New Hampshire, from July 7th to 28th with Dr. Truman B. Douglass as dean. The Western School will meet at LaForet, Colorado Springs, Colorado, from July 7th to August 4th. Dr. Stanley U. North will be the dean.

Outstanding faculties will serve on the staff at each school. Scholarships are given to ministers who are recommended by their state superintendents from whom applications may be secured. Board, room and travel allowance in excess of \$15 are provided. Registration at each school is limited to fifty, so prompt registration is urged. Wives of ministers attending will be accepted at both schools.

For further information, write to Supt. E. M. Butterfield, 673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

Youth Conference Week-end

The Student Christian Association of Southern Union College held its first Youth Conference Week-end April 9-11 on the theme "We are preparing for tomorrow, today".

All upper class high school and college age young people of the area were invited to attend for talks by leaders, seminars on particular vocational interests, panel discussions and just plain old "bull sessions."

many years when it may be a blessing to those who want to know God better. Start thinking now of how YOU can help to have a **Pilgrim Camp** at **Plymouth Rock** in the Southeast Convention!!

Members of the Camp Site Committee present were: Mrs. Jettie Logan, chairman, and Supt. Butterfield, Rev. John Pickens, Rev. Herbert Long, Millard Fuller, Rev. and Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Mrs. John Fralic, Rev. Charles Bell, and G. F. Logan. Those from the Alabama Power Company were J. G. Higchcock and Richard Scott, land managers for the company.

CHRISTIANITY IN GEORGIA

(From page 2)

Congregational Christians have been supporters of cooperative Christianity for fifty years. A free church such as ours has nothing to lose and much to gain from such participation. If your church has put the Georgia Council of Churches in its budget, please send the money now to the Convention office. If it has not yet included this, won't you urge your church to support the Georgia Council of Churches?

New Home Board Secretary

The Rev. Walter E. Dobler of Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota, will take over his duties as a secretary of The Board of Home Missions about June first. Mr. Dobler has been assigned to the Division of Christian Education with headquarters in Boston. His special responsibilities will be to head up the Department of Adult Work and Family Life. For the past six years Mr. Dobler has been Professor of Old Testament and Christian Education at Yankton School of Theology and for more than four years he has edited **The Messenger**, an English language publication of the German Congregational Churches in the United States.

National Family Week - May 2-9

The theme for Family Week this year is "A Troubled World Needs Christian Families". Any churches which would like to obtain materials for observance of this week can do so from the National Council of Churches, 79 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

1. **Tested Plans for Family Week** - 8-page leaflet for use in planning Family Week in the local church. 5c each.

2. An attractive two-color poster 11x17 inches at 10c.

The Division offices at 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass., will lend you a Family Life book kit for display during this week. Also, you may order from them leaflets at 3c each (\$2.50 per 100) "Suggestions for Growth in Christian Family Living." "Let's Worship Together in the Family", a 6-page leaflet answering briefly the questions: Why? When? How? Where? 12 factual telegraphic reports of how various families do worship as families. At 3c each; \$2.00 per 100.

Unusual Chains of Friendship

Christians of the United States are forging chains of friendship in unusual ways -- through chickens to Egypt, heifers to Europe and the Near East, and now goats to Puerto Rico.

When several hundred goats were shipped to the islands recently, partly through the efforts of Yuquiyu Rural Life Community, six animals were received by Yuquiyu as its quota.

An animal is loaned to a needy family which may keep any offspring but must return the mother to be loaned again. As the purpose of this joint project is to raise the standards of diet in the islands, the Board of Home Missions, working at Yuquiyu, helps forge this unusual link in its health program.

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

Progress

I'm sure all of you noticed the beautiful Easter cover with its symbolism: the white lilies in the shadow of the Cross bring to mind the Resurrection and that death is the beginning of a new life -- the life everlasting; the lilies are also remindful of the blessed Trinity -- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. With this Easter issue comes the wish that each one of you has had a blessed Easter season.

Following Easter, the next big events are the Ministers' Convocation May 3-7 at Wadley and the Southeast Convention Meeting May 15 and 16 in Lanett. This promises to be an even larger meeting than the one in Chattanooga last year. Elsewhere in this issue is information regarding the program, and you will notice that we have a long list of outstanding Christian leaders who will be in attendance.

One of the major items of business that will come up for discussion and action is the first step toward complete autonomy and self-support, and because of its importance I want to present it in outline form.

Autonomy for the Southeast Convention

1. In recognition of the Southeast Convention's assuming conditional self-support on June 1, 1954, and to make the transition from semi-autonomous status to independence completely successful, it is understood between the Convention of the Southeast and the Board of Home Missions:

2. That the Board of Home Missions is to provide the Convention of the Southeast \$20,000 a year in 1954-55, 1955-56, and 1956-57, and thereafter the appropriation is to be reduced 20% annually to elimination.

3. The Convention of the Southeast is to provide the Board of Home Missions with a complete annual financial report throughout the life of the subsidy.

VOTE: That this agreement be adopted and become operative on June 1, 1954, subject to the approval of the constituent conferences (Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky-Tennessee) of the Southeast Convention.))

Explanation: The above vote is predicated on the assumption that the following procedures will be adopted:

1. The Convention shall discontinue the practice of remitting its total apportionment receipts to the national denominational treasuries.

2. The Convention shall withhold three-fourths of its apportionment receipts for its own needs and remit one-fourth to the national boards until full self-support is achieved.

3. The Convention shall assume entire responsibility for its own affairs after June 1, 1954, and be free to accumulate or spend any funds it requires from the 75% of income from its churches and other sources.

4. The Board of Home Missions is to receive a complete annual financial report during the life of the subsidy.

In presenting the above proposal to the Budget Committee of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism, Dr. Tripp provided the following statement:

"The latest Year Book data shows that the total apportionment giving to benevolences by the churches of the Southeast Convention was \$11,292 in 1952. (\$12,919 on 1953). The current budget (1953-54) of the Convention is \$28,145. Can it be assumed that the benevolences of the Convention could be raised to at least \$15,000 under the impetus of a definite scheme for the final achievement of self-support and self-determination? Can it also be assumed that the budget of the Southeast Convention for the next year could be set at no more than \$31,250?

"It is assumed that the Southeast Convention would wish to contribute to the denominational agencies 25% of its own income. Thus, if the giving of the churches equaled \$15,000, it would be divided as follows:

To the Southeast Convention budget.....	\$11,250.00
To the denominational agencies	3,750.00
	\$15,000.00

Income:

From the churches	\$15,000.00
From Board Home Missions	20,000.00
	\$35,000.00

Expenditures:

For the Convention	\$31,250.00
To denominational agencies	3,750.00
	\$35,000.00

We will spend some time in discussing all of the implications of this plan at the meeting in Lanett. We all believe that it is a realistic plan within the capabilities of the churches of the Southeast Con-

(Please turn to page 10)



TODD CHURCH NEARING COMPLETION

Herbert Long Ordained



Left to right: The Reverends Charles W. Bell, M. O. Worley, Erston M. Butterfield, Herbert Long, N. A. Long, A. R. Von Cleove, Samuel Long, C. Carl Dollor and John E. Pickens, Jr.

The Ordination Service of the Rev. David Herbert Long was held March 3 at the East Tallassee Liberty Church, where the Rev. Long is serving as pastor.

Mr. Long is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. N. A. Long and the grandson of the Rev. Samuel Long. Three generations of ministers participated in his ordination service, the Rev. N. A. Long preached the ordination sermon and the Rev. Samuel Long gave the statement of the people.

Mr. Long served as Chaplain's Assistant while in the Navy in World War II, was licensed to preach by the Georgia Conference in 1952 and served the Friendship and Antioch Churches be-

(Please turn to page 11)



Three generations of ministers: The Reverends Herbert Long, N. A. Long, and Samuel Long.

Unique Pulpit



Shown above is the Reverend Abram Nightingale in the pulpit of our Crossville, Tenn., Church. The pulpit is of rare beauty in its design and color and is made entirely of crab orchard stone, native to only three areas in the world. Crossville is one of these areas. It was designed, quarried, and cut by R. N. Pelot and Joseph Parker, members of the congregation.

The church school has been reorganized and is continuing to grow under the leadership of an expert staff. The Laymen's and Women's Fellowship groups are exceedingly active.

The Rev. Nightingale is now in his 30th year of service to the Crossville Church and community.

Coffee Urn Presented

On February 28 the President, Felix Logan, and the Vice President, Morrell Rhodes, of the East

(Please turn to page 10)



Left to right: Miss Christine Durden, Morrell Rhodes, Bobby Femberton, Felix Logan, Rev. Long, Miss Willa Durden and Mrs. Murroy Boker.



Miss Catton (right) speaking to the Central Association on Missionary Education.

Miss Catton Speaks

On February 8 Miss Ione Catton and the Rev. C. Carl Dollar met with members of the Central Association at the Mt. Olive Church, Tallahassee, Ala.

Mr. Dollar introduced Miss Catton, who is one of the secretaries of the Missions Council, and she was the speaker for the three sessions. Theme of the institutes was Missionary Education, and topics of discussion were "What is the Foreign and Home Board Organization?", "The Status of World Missions Today", and "A Local Church Program of Missionary Education."

Miss Catton was a very interesting and helpful speaker, and all those present were happy that she could clear up questions in their minds.

Certificate of Licensure

Moderator M. O. Worley awarding Certificates of Licensure in the Central Alabama Association on January 29 to the Reverends Otto Culpepper, Andrew Nelson and Howard Morris. All three men are now serving churches in that area.



Left to right: Mrs. Elliott; Mrs. David Shepherd, State President; Mrs. Maynard Burnham, Vice President; Mrs. Herbert Moye, President, and Mrs. Emmett Murphy, Secretary-Treasurer.

Georgia Spring Rallies

The Spring Rallies of the Central-North and the South Georgia Women's Fellowships were held on March 16 and 18, respectively, with the theme "Rejoicing in Our Task." The Central North Rally was held at the LaGrange United Church and the South Georgia Rally was held at the Baxley Friendship Church.

Mrs. Keith Elliot, of Battle Creek, Michigan, was the featured speaker at both meetings, along with Superintendent Butterfield. Mr. Butterfield also conducted the installations services for the newly elected officers at both rallies.

Materials for the coming year were on display and were presented and discussed. Woman's Gift dedications were held, and each rally also held a business session and elected new officers.



Left to right: New officers for South Georgia—Mrs. Earl Hand, Vice President; Mrs. Frank Borner, Secretary-Treasurer; and Mrs. Albert Mixon, President.

Church News

The Laymen of the **Lanett Church** felt proud, and justly so, in the attendance of the banquet held at Southern Union College on February 27. Forty-six men and women from this congregation enjoyed this most remarkable evening which was a credit to any Laymen's Association. We feel that S.U.C. should be commended for the good food, the pleasant and efficient manner in which the students served it, and for the entertainment—all this spoke well for our institution. All of us greatly benefitted from the very interesting and informative talk by Dr. Bryant Drake on the beliefs of the Congregational Christians. It was an evening well spent.

Cub Scout Pack No. 1 enjoyed its annual Blue and Gold party on March 1 in the Fellowship Hall. Group singing and games were directed by Tom Crenshaw, Cub Master. Pictures were made before serving the supper of beefburgers with all the trimmings. The meal was prepared and served by Mrs. Charlie Miller, Mrs. Vester Dobson and Mrs. J. P. Hamby, who are Den Mothers. Following the meal a round table discussion between the Den Mothers and parents was held. The boys conducted the devotional and the Rev. Joe A. French was the speaker for the evening. Tom Crenshaw and Charles Shaver awarded the badges and led the group in the Pledge to the Flag. This Pack has a most remarkable record attendance—the entire membership of 30 being present.

The World Day of Prayer service held at the Methodist Church on March 5 was most impressive. Several of our laymen helped the women in the presentation of the tableau, which was most effective. A number of men were present and we hope this will be a beginning of having more of them attend important meetings of this nature.

On March 10 a spaghetti supper was served to the choir members and pastor before practice began. Twenty-five enjoyed the fellowship and meal together, followed by a very good choir rehearsal.

S. W. Seymour, oldest member of the Laymen's Fellowship in the local church, was honored with a supper on the evening of March 13. He was presented a gift of appreciation by Arthur Dailey. W. O. McGill, president, was toastmaster. The men sponsored the supper and sold 207 tickets at \$1 each. A group of women prepared the turkey dinner and served it banquet fashion. A profit of \$146.60 was made. Mr. McGill is also pianist for a quartet, and they furnished several numbers which were well received. Following these selections Rufus Farrar of LaGrange delivered a timely message. Laymen have surely had the limelight this month!

Dr. Harold C. Hollingsworth of Palmyria, Pa., of the Evangelical United Brethren Fellowship, was guest speaker for the Valley Ministerial Association on March 15. That evening he spoke to a group of men in our local church, and the following day he was speaker for our Congregational Christian Ministerial Meeting in Roanoke. Dr.

Hollingsworth's fine and forceful speeches were greatly enjoyed by all groups.

The church is holding Lenten Services March 1 through April 18, with morning and evening services each Sunday. The pastor, the Rev. Joe A. French, has been diligently working on the preparation of his membership for this important season. For the past number of weeks at the close of the evening services altar calls have been made for a season of united prayer. Pocket size copies of the Gospels have been given to members and visitors with the request that the "I am's" of Jesus be marked and counted. The person having the correct count will be given a nice Bible. This is also an effort to stimulate daily Bible reading with the hope it shall be a continued practice.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

The **Todd Church** of Shawmut had "Family Night" at the church on February 20. The evening meal was prepared by the ladies of the church, with a good group of members and friends present and a large group of young people.

On February 21 we had as our guest preacher the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, our Superintendent. During the afternoon he met with a group of the men to discuss further the plans for building our new church, which is already under construction.

Fourteen church members from Todd attended the Laymen's Fellowship meeting at Wadley on February 27. Six young people attended.

A teen-age group has recently been organized, with about ten attending regularly and a guest speaker almost every Sunday night. Paul Frost was elected to guide the young people in their program. The Rev. John E. Pickens was the guest speaker on March 10, meeting with the young people for a planning session after prayer meeting.

Attending the Spring Rally from Todd Church were Mrs. Manning Yates, Mrs. Howard Strength, and Mrs. Fulton Smith.

—Mrs. Howard Strength, reporter

February 20 was the tenth anniversary of the ministry of Dr. Thomas Anderson at **Central Congregational Church** in Atlanta. On the following Sunday the church was thronged with people who came to pay their respects to the minister for his leadership.

During those ten years the membership has grown from 84 to 601, and the budget has increased from \$4,150 to \$25,067. During the ten year period over \$32,000 has been provided by the people through the budget for repairs and improvements to the buildings and for new furnishings and equipment, making Central one of the most attractive and well-equipped churches in Atlanta.

A substantial gift of money was presented to Dr. and Mrs. Anderson as an expression of appreciation for their work during the ten years, and the hope was expressed that the past decade was but the first of many they would spend in service in and for "The House of Inspiration."

The **Mountain Grove Church**, near Steppville, Ala., has been engaged in a redecorating and improvement program, including landscaping the grounds and completing the church basement. On March 4 church members celebrated the completion of the basement with a fellowship supper.

The sanctuary of the church was also redecorated, adding greatly to the worship atmosphere of the church.

The Pilgrim Fellowship has taken on new life with new program material. They are seriously working on the "milkman" project to raise at least \$6 by Easter.

New officers were elected recently as follows: Sharron Van Sant, President; Mary Clark, Vice President; Melba Lee, Secretary-Treasurer; and Program Committee, Gwendolyn Clark, Mrs. Ruby Clark and William H. Clark. Adult advisor is William H. Clark.

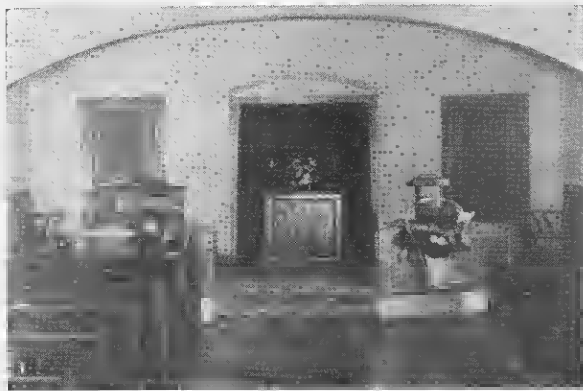
Mr. Harding, Principal of Hanceville High School, announced recently that Sharron Van Sant has won a scholarship to Southern Union College for next year.

We enjoyed the Mission Institute with Miss Catton at Garden City Church. The Reverends Richard Waugh, Vell Bayne, and Earnest Shelton also attended.

—Guy L. Colbert, pastor.

Dr. Charles Haven Myers, who was the first pastor of the **Pilgrim Congregational Church** of Chattanooga, was the guest preacher on March 28 for the morning service. An informal tea honoring Dr. Myers was planned for the afternoon and Dr. Myers again spoke to the group. Dr. Myers will participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing program of Pilgrim Church. He recently resigned as minister of North Woodward Congregational Church in Detroit, Mich.

Emerson P. Poste, church clerk, in his report to the Annual Meeting on April 9, stated: "Year by year the records of the Clerk indicate the steady growth of Pilgrim Church as a whole, reflected more specifically in the reports of the individual Boards and Departments. The fiscal year just ended follows in this pattern. The church subscribed its quota of \$2,414 for the Church Building Loan Fund and is now engaged in a study and plan for expanding its own facilities. The giving to Our Christian World Mission was the best in our history, the total being \$1,968.20 at an average of \$6 per member!"



Sanctuary - Mt. Grove

During Lent the minister taught a class of children preparing for membership, using the booklet, "Christian Commitments." Each Tuesday at 11:00 o'clock Mr. Slater leads a devotional study group, using recent books. Those used so far are: "Plain Christianity" by J. B. Phillips; "The Sun and the Umbrella" by Nels S. Ferre; "The Practice and Power of Prayer" by John S. Bonnell. Future books include "The Recovery of Family Life" by Elton Trueblood; and "God's Psychiatry" by Charles L. Allen.

The Pilgrim Fellowship has been divided into a Junior and Senior group, meeting together for parts of the meeting and supper and then having separate programs. Mrs. Billy Webster is Adult Leader for the Juniors and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gregg are Adult Leaders for the Seniors.

The Women's Guild conducted a Family Night program recently and Miss Grace Williams presented the theme "Summons to Service and Solidarity" in a most unique and interesting manner.

The annual Maundy Thursday Communion Service, with the extinguishing of the lights by the Deacons, a traditional service in Pilgrim Church, was held as usual.

—Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor.

The **Circular Congregational Church** of Charleston, S. C., was happy to welcome Supt. Butterfield on March 21. Mr. Butterfield's sermon topic was "In the Multitude Around the Cross." On March 19 the Rev. Matthew B. Porter, who is working in the trailer camps of the Savannah River Project, was our guest speaker.

A Pilgrim Fellowship has been organized with 12 charter members, meeting in Lance Hall each Sunday from five to six-thirty.

The Men's Club is going strong and held their monthly dinner on the evening of March 22 with Bill Sharpe and Mr. Bedford as chefs. The guest speaker was Dr. R. S. Meadowcroft.

A Fish Fry, sponsored by the Loleta Wood Circle, was held on March 24 for the benefit of Circle projects. The ticket sale was in charge of Mrs. Jack McClure and Mrs. W. L. Hartman.

A series of Thursday evening devotional messages was held during Lent on "Thy Kingdom Come", using the parables of Jesus as source material.

The congregation is currently raising money to redecorate the domes of the church, a project which will cost some \$1260.

—Archie B. Bedford, pastor

On February 7 the **Andalusia First Church** was very fortunate in having Miss Ione Catton and the Rev. C. Carl Dollar with us. A number of our church members went along with our delegates to the Mission Institute Miss Catton conducted in the Antioch Church that afternoon. Miss Florine Wallace and Mrs. Bernice Carter were our delegates.

Our WMS held its regular meeting on February 8 with almost a perfect attendance record. Mrs. Bernice Carter gave a splendid book review on "Where'er the Sun". We always enjoy hearing her reviews; she brings the high points of the book to us in such a pleasing and understanding manner.

Our delegates reported on the Mission Institute in an inspiring and helpful manner, and said they wished each member could have been present not only for the meeting but for the fellowship and the delicious food the Antioch ladies served. We have sponsored a rummage sale and made another payment on our pulpit chairs.

—Lula Payne Trawick, reporter

A Stewardship Committee has been elected at the **Headland Blackwood Church**, composed of M. E. Rister, A. T. Brackin, Mrs. Leonard Faison, Mrs. Mildred Johnson and Dora Brackin. The committee was elected on March 2 and by March 7 had completed a six-session study course, using the book "Stewardship in the New Testament Church" by Ralson. The Committee was busy during March promoting "One Great Hour of Sharing."

A Christian Education Committee was also elected on March 2 and it is composed of Mrs. R. M. Hicks, Mrs. Leonard Faison and Raybon Kennedy.

The men have done two big jobs for the church this month! On March 11 they had an all-day working at the church finishing the two jobs: the roofing of the parsonage and the painting of the church. The M. O. Johnson family donated the paint for the outside of the church. Not only the men were working for the church that day -- the women dressed hens, collected and sold them to raise money for painting the interior of the parsonage. About \$30 was realized. And, too, the women spread dinner-on-the-ground for everyone that day. Since March 11 was a school day, few young people were present. However, they had worked on two previous Saturdays scraping off the old paint and painting.

Our Sunday School attendance has been unusually good since the middle of last November. This month the Every Member Canvass showed an increasing interest in the church on the part of many families.

The Women's Fellowship is very active, sending packages as a friendly service, making quilts for sale, and cooperating with the state program in every way possible.

—Dora Brackin, reporter

Pleasant Grove Church is still moving forward in 1954.

Much progress has been made in the Church since 1952, at which time the old church was torn down to be replaced with a new brick veneer building. Sunday School rooms and a basement have been added, which make the church more convenient and comfortable. A gas heating system was installed this past winter, and this also adds to its comfort. The Church has morning and evening services each first and third Sundays. We enjoy the church bulletins each service, prepared by our able pastor, the Rev. Charles Bell.

An Every Member Canvass has just been completed and it was most effective. We are now using the envelopes which aid in a systematic method of giving.

We have organizations for both men and women. The Women's Fellowship has just celebrated its fourth birthday. The Men's Fellowship is fairly new but going strong. We were delighted to enter-

tain the East Alabama Women's Fellowship for the spring rally on March 20, and provided a covered dish supper.

The goal of Pleasant Grove Church is to continue to grow in '54.

—Mrs. W. G. Harmon, reporter

The Laymen's Fellowship of the **Williams Chapel Church** met March 4 for their regular monthly meeting. A fine fish supper was prepared and served by N. A. Long, Jr., W. B. Glosson and Mikey Blount.

New officers were elected to serve for the next six months: Lester Shaw, Chairman; Mikey Blount, Secretary-Treasurer. Out-going officers were W. B. Glosson and Jimmy Jernigan. These men have done a fine job and our thanks and appreciation are extended to them. We are looking forward to great accomplishments under the leadership of our new officers.

—Rev. Frank Barner, pastor

The new pastor of the **Robbins Parish**, the Rev. Hugh Lasseter, is preaching at each of the three churches each Sunday. Each congregation has held an organizational meeting and elected officers. A Visitation Evangelism course and campaign is being planned.

A Pilgrim Fellowship has been organized at Robbins with 24 members the first meeting.

Mr. Lasseter has been making a religious survey of his parish and reports that out of 90 adults visited in Robbins, 32 have never made any profession of faith and 17 are inactive. At Deer Lodge out of 99 adults, 66 have never made profession of faith and 19 are inactive. This makes a total of 150 people who have no real relation to any church to say nothing of several hundred children who are in no church school.

Mr. Lasseter requests the prayers of all in order that God may give him the wisdom and strength to lead these people into a full program of Christian living.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

(From page 5)

vention and is the necessary first step toward self-determination and self-support.

I shall hope to see all of you at Lanett as our "Plan of Progress for the Southeast Convention" moves confidently forward—for the good of our churches and the advancement of God's Kingdom.

—Erston M. Butterfield

P.S.—We are desperately hoping that the churches which have not yet taken action on the Church Building Loan Fund will do so at once, that we may reach 100% of our goal. That is an announcement we will all be looking forward to when we gather at Lanett!

COFFEE URN PRESENTED

(From page 6)

Tallassee Liberty Church Layman's Fellowship, presented to officers and pastor of the church a beautiful coffee urn. The Layman's Fellowship was organized in January and the coffee urn was their first project. After the presentation coffee and cake was enjoyed in the social room of the church.

THE STEEP ASCENT

Lent is for Christians the major season of spiritual renewal. For this Lenten Season we explore, through a series of messages by the REV. ROBBINS WOLCOTT BARSTOW, the pattern of Christian experience, in the company of those who would climb the steep ascent of heaven.

THE CHALLENGE

Unlike the passive watching of a drama or a football game, the Christian call demands a deal of doing. Christ expects a response not just in assenting thought, or even in appropriate words. There must be the demonstration of conviction in daily conduct and conversation, in serving and sharing. For after all, the only testimony that really counts is the witness of life itself, in its real quality. Christian faith is not merely thinking the truth, nor even saying the right thing. Essentially it is being the right kind of a person.

THE HIGH RESOLVE

Mob decisions and resultant deeds are seldom sound. They contain too much emotion and too little intellect or will, even when the general reaction is superficially wholesome. It was wonderful that there were multitudes who did feel the contagion of admiration and acknowledged Jesus as their King, even if they did not fully understand all that the event implied. But the acclaim on Palm Sunday was only a passing thing. The abiding Christian fellowship was built of those who of their own accord thought through the significance of a recognition far more permanent and more deeply decisive than the waving of branches along with the crowd. Better the accumulated power of these single allegiances than the vanishing enthusiasms of the throngs.

The tone and temper of any individual life is set by the determinations that must be back of demonstrations. To hail a hero on a festive occasion is all very well so far as it goes. To carry through with a great cause is the better indication of tribute.

Our Christ is even now seeking men and women who in the quietness of their own hearts, whether or not it shows in occasional celebrations, have made the High Resolve of Discipleship.

THROUGH TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

Cloud-filled skies provide the most gorgeous sunrises and sunsets. I have seen the sun go down over the Sahara Desert or rise over the Atlantic Ocean in cloudless immensity and grandeur. But it is when there are masses of clouds, to be edged with gold, and backed by indescribable shades of pink and purple that one holds one's breath and exclaims with the Psalmist, "The heavens declare the glory of God!"

So it is with life. It is when there are dark clouds of sin or of suffering or of sorrow to be transformed into patches of splendor that the spirit of man shows at its best.

And so it was with Jesus. The miracle of Easter came into its full magnificence because it touched with rainbow hues of eternal light even the shadows and gloom of sin and death. How those first

disciples cowered under the clouds of defeat and disillusionment! And then how they rejoiced to find that by the mysterious power of God, those very facts of darkness were now radiant with the brightness of a risen, victorious Christ! Through the wonder of God's love, portent and reminder of which we may often see in eastern or western skies, all of human history was changed. You and I are the gainers today because that the first Easter, God turned Tragedy into Triumph.

THE RECOGNITION

As they went to Emmaus they were deep in conversation about everything that had happened. While they were absorbed in their serious talk, Jesus joined them and walked along with them, but something prevented them from recognizing Him. He spoke to them explaining everything in the Scriptures concerning Himself, and they invited him to say with them because it was near evening. While he was sitting at table with them he took the loaf, gave thanks, broke it and passed it to them. **Then they knew him**; but He vanished even while they stared. They hurried back to Jerusalem, found the disciples and told what things were done on the way, and how he was known to them.

—Robbins Wolcott Barstow

(From the Missions Council Church Calendar)

New Books

MY FIRST BOOK ABOUT JESUS. Mary Alice Jones. 1953: \$1.25. Large pictures in beautiful colors; scripture passages. For small children.

I BELIEVE - A CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR YOUTH. Nevin C. Harner. 128 pages. \$1.75. Proved worth with young people, also valuable for young adults. Clear, readable, persuasive.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. Georgia Harkness. 176 pages. \$1.75. Deals with Fundamentals; helpful to ministers also. Highly recommended.

HERBERT LONG ORDAINED

(From page 6)

fore assuming the pastorate of the Liberty Church in November, 1953.

Upon recommendation of the Liberty Church, his ordination was unanimously voted by the Central Association in special session early in February.

Other ministers participating in the service were the Rev. M. O. Worley, the Rev. John E. Pickens, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, the Rev. C. Carl Dollar, Superintendent E. M. Butterfield, and the Rev. Charles W. Bell.

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

SUMMER CONFERENCES AND CAMPS

For "the best week of your life" plan NOW to attend the summer conference or camp nearest you. Going to camp is a privilege, and privilege involves responsibility - and that involves the spirit in which we go. It's more than a vacation, it is an investment in your life by some people who believe in you, who want to help in turning out the kind of person God has in mind when He thinks about you!

Not that you won't have a good time—but it's a good time with a point to it. It's an experiment in living together in democracy and good will and mutual helpfulness.

Here are the places and the dates:

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE FAMILY CAMP

At Pomona, Tenn. - June 6-12

Dean: Rev. Arnold Slater, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Registrar: Mrs. T. L. Cunningham

Speakers and teachers will include Dr. Paul Reynolds, Rev. Collie Seymour, Rev. Harlee Patterson (United Church, Oak Ridge), and invitations have been extended to Rabbi Abram Feinstein and Dr. Burley, both of Chattanooga.

ALABAMA JUNIOR HIGH CAMP (age 12 to 14)

At Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.

July 4-10

Dean: Rev. Herbert Long, East Tallassee, Ala.
Dean of Women: Mrs. Jettie Logan

ALABAMA SENIOR HIGH CAMP (age 15 and up)

At SUC, Wadley, Ala. - July 18-24

Dean: Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Garden City, Ala.

GEORGIA FAMILY CAMP

At Waycross, Ga. - August 15-21

Dean: Rev. Earl Hand, Pearson, Ga.

Additional information on these camps will be going out soon to pastors and church clerks, along with registration blanks. Please return the blanks as directed.

As you young people make plans for going to camp this summer, will you earnestly resolve to make the most of a chance to look deeply into your own life, your ideals, your goals? Will you take stock of yourself and set your course again by the stars? The high moments may very well be the moments of worship - in solitary devotions at Morning Watch or in the loveliness of Vespers. All week long God will be trying hard to say something to you. Will you listen, and answer? In short, what I am trying to say to you young people is this: your youth camp may be one of those "once in a lifetime" experiences. It turns out that way most often for the people with the will to make it so. Come to these summer camps with an open heart, ready hands and high, expansive hopes. Then go back home with surer feet, clearer sight and a stronger grip on yourself and the purpose Christ calls you to serve.

—John E. Pickens, Jr., Chairman
Southeast Convention Committee
On Youth

CONVOCATION AND MINISTERS' SCHOOL

Registrations are coming in for the first Convention Convocation for Ministers, to be held May 3-7 on the campus of Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala. All indications are that this Convocation and school will be a wonderful success with almost every minister of the Southeast Convention attending.

A folder containing all information on the five significant days at Southern Union was mailed out to all ministers and churches in April, along with letters to ministers and churches clerks. If your pastor or your church clerk did not receive this information, please write to Superintendent Butterfield at 673 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Ga., at once and the information will come to you by return mail.

This program will offer an opportunity of great value to all who are serving Congregational Christian Churches in the Convention, enabling those who are ordained to refresh their understanding and techniques, and those who are looking toward ordination to prepare themselves for that significant event.

Featured speakers will be Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer and Dr. Warren H. Denison.

The Committee on Ministry and Churches will have books available at the beginning of the course to be supplied to those enrolled.

Ministers who have not sent in a registration blank are urged to do so at once.

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Gleanings from the Mail . . .

The Rev. S. M. Penn has begun a Wednesday night Family Prayer and Fellowship service at the Richland First Church . . . Evarts Church has organized a Men's Fellowship . . . the Rev. Melvin Dollar held a preaching mission March 22-26 at Douglas Church . . . the Rev. N. A. Long is preaching the Lenten weekly service at the East Tallassee Liberty Church, where his son, Herbert Long, is the pastor. While he is away from the Northwest Florida Parish, his father, the Rev. Samuel Long, will be supplying for him.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CHURCH REPORTERS !!

Since the May issue of the SOUTHEAST NEWS will be the Convention issue, with reports from officers, committees and staff, the Convention program and hymn, there will be no space for church news. Please save your news and send it by May 20 for the JUNE ISSUE.



The reason why men who mind their own business succeed is because they have so little competition.